



# NATIONAL VA RESEARCH WEEK

May 9-12, 2023

## Cutting-Edge Care Through Research

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PROVIDENCE VAMC ASSOCIATE CHIEF OF STAFF (RESEARCH)

Dear Research Community Members,

It is with great excitement that we announce the arrival of VA Research Week 2023! As one of the largest and most comprehensive healthcare systems in the world, the VA has a long-standing commitment to advancing medical research and improving the health of our nation's Veterans. From exploring new treatments for mental health conditions to developing cutting-edge technologies to improve mobility and quality of life, VA research is at the forefront of advancing healthcare for Veterans.

This year's Research Week theme, "**Cutting-Edge Care Through Research**" underscores the important role research plays in identifying new treatments, technology, and services to improve the health and well-being of those who have served our country. Over the course of the week, we will showcase the innovative work being done by our researchers at VA Providence.

None of this can be accomplished without your support and participation in various research studies and clinical trials. Your selfless commitment and service enables VA research to make the significant discoveries needed and have a positive impact on the health of our Veterans.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to a successful Research Week!

Sincerely,

~ Dr. Gaurav Choudhary  
@GChoudharyMD

### RESEARCH WEEK EVENTS

9

**Lunch and Learn**  
Dr. Amin Zand Vakili presents  
"Cutting-Edge Careers in Research"  
Tuesday, May 9th  
11 am  
Building 35; Rooms 142/143

11

**Providence Research Day 2023**  
10am-12pm: **Poster Session**  
12:30 pm: **Keynote Presentation**

**Veterans' Exposure to Open Burn Pits and Long-Term Health Outcomes**

**VA Research Week:**  
May 9 - 12, 2023

**Cutting-Edge Care Through Research**

Learn More










*Keynote Speaker:*  
**Dr. Amal Trivedi**



*Keynote Speaker:*  
**Dr. David Savitz**

To learn more, visit:  
[www.providence.va.gov/research](http://www.providence.va.gov/research)



# RESEARCH AT PROVIDENCE VA MEDICAL CENTER

## WELCOME TO PROVIDENCE VA RESEARCH

**The Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology (CfNN)** seeks to develop, test, and implement new therapies and technologies that restore function for Veterans with disorders affecting the nervous system.

**The Center of Innovation in Long Term Services & Supports' (LTSS COIN)** vision is to empower Veterans, and the nation, to overcome the challenges of aging, disability, or serious illness by developing research on measurement, Implementation, and quality of VA LTSS, enhancing access to and value of care delivered to vulnerable Veterans.

Follow us on Twitter at @COINLTSS

**The Vascular Research Laboratory at the Providence VA Medical Center (PVAMC)** consists of investigators with a focus on endothelial and vascular smooth muscle biology as it relates to pulmonary and cardiac diseases and translating their research from bench to bedside.

**Cardio Pulmonary Vascular Biology Center of Biomedical Research Excellence's (CPVB COBRE)** vision is to

advance the understanding of vascular diseases affecting the pulmonary and cardiovascular systems. CPVB COBRE has a multidisciplinary group of outstanding investigators who are using cutting edge tools to understand the pathobiology of vascular diseases. The CPVB COBRE provides Cell/Organ/Respiration Core support, protected time, and mentoring to enable junior investigators to become independent scientists who will perform mentored vascular biology. The CPVB COBRE is led by Gaurav Choudhary, MD. and Elizabeth Harrington, PhD.

- ◆ More information at [cpvb.org](http://cpvb.org).
- ◆ Follow us on Twitter @CPVB\_COBRE.



**Clinical & Translational Research Program (CTRP)** at PVAMC supports every aspect of our clinical and translational research studies, from regulatory and coordination of support, to analysis and publication of results, and is comprised of project managers, research associates, and research assistants as part of a centrally managed research support team.

## RESEARCH PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

In January 2022, Health Services Research & Development awarded Dr. Eric Jutkowitz and the Center of Innovation in Long Term Services & Supports' (LTSS COIN), with funding to launch **The Providence Evidence Synthesis Program**.

### What is the ESP?

The VA Evidence Synthesis Program (ESP), established in 2007, helps VA fulfill its vision of functioning as a continuously learning health care system.

We provide timely, targeted, independent syntheses of the medical literature for the VHA to translate into evidence-based clinical practice, policy, and research.

**The ESP helps VHA leaders make the best possible use of current knowledge.**



**QUALIFIED:** ESP Center Directors are VA clinicians and recognized leaders in the field of research synthesis with close ties to the AHRQ Evidence-based Practice Center Program and Cochrane Collaboration.

**HIGH IMPACT:** ESP tackles high-priority issues such as opioid use, suicide prevention, and community care, and have informed reports to Congress, American College of Physicians guidelines, and VHA formularies.



**INNOVATIVE:** We go beyond "traditional" systematic review methods and integrate qualitative information from providers and patients and quantitative system data.

**TIMELY:** Requests are accepted year-round, with more urgent needs prioritized for our rapid products. Our product timeframes range from 1 week to 1 year.





# NATIONAL VA RESEARCH WEEK

## Cutting-Edge Care Through Research

### VA RESEARCH WEEK LUNCH AND LEARN

Join Dr. Zand Vakili for a discussion on “Career Development, focusing on opportunities and pitfalls for members of research teams and academics in their career development. Amin will discuss his challenges and opportunities, talk about positive and negative steps he has taken in his career, and share his future path.

**Tuesday, May 9th**

**11:00am**

**Location: Building 35, Rooms 142/143**



### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



What does "cutting-edge research" mean to you? Please add your thoughts, opinions, new research, publications or any ideas about all things "cutting-edge" to our Research Week Padlet:

[Research Week 2023 "Cutting-Edge Care Through Research" \(padlet.com\)](https://www.padlet.com/Research-Week-2023-Cutting-Edge-Care-Through-Research)



### TIMELINE OF VA RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1925** Founded VA research and development program.
- 1946** Issued Policy Memorandum No. 2, formalizing a relationship between the nation's medical schools and VA. The new policy laid the groundwork for medical care for returning WWII Veterans, and training medical students.
- 1946** Launched first decisive trials of antibiotics as a treatment for tuberculosis.
- 1950s** Probed link between smoking and lung cancer; this VA research featured prominently in the landmark 1964 US Surgeon General's report.
- 1950s** Developed a technique, using radioisotopes, to measure tiny quantities of various biological substances in human blood.
- 1960** Implanted the first pacemaker in Buffalo, New York.
- 1961** Published early conceptual work on computerized tomography (CAT Scan).
- 1964** Initiated a 5-year, 17-hospital study that showed drug treatment for moderately high blood pressure reduced patient deaths by more than 50%.
- 1967** Improved immunosuppression techniques needed to facilitate liver transplants.
- 1969** Determined the structure of hormones released in the pituitary gland; helping to explain how brain hormones interact with the endocrine system.
- 1983** Developed the SMART Wheel, a device that led to improved wheelchair designs by enhancing assessments of upper extremity pain.
- 1984** Developed nicotine patch to aid smoking cessation.
- 2003** Launched major studies to examine psychotherapy interventions to treat post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- 2005** Demonstrated the effectiveness of a new vaccine for shingles.
- 2011** Established the Million Veteran Program, one of the largest and most diverse genetic research databases in the world, to assist in VA and non-VA research studies.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to Candace Shuman, Amy Mochel, Taylor Rickard and Emily Corneau for development of this newsletter



# RESEARCH WEEK CROSSWORD

## Enter for a Chance to Win!

COMPLETE THE CROSSWORD FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!

**A CHANCE TO  
WIN!**

The rules are simple:

1. Complete this crossword
2. Return your completed crossword to Amy Mochel at [Amy.Mochel@va.gov](mailto:Amy.Mochel@va.gov)
3. The first person to solve the crossword CORRECTLY, wins a \$15 Dunkin Donuts gift card!

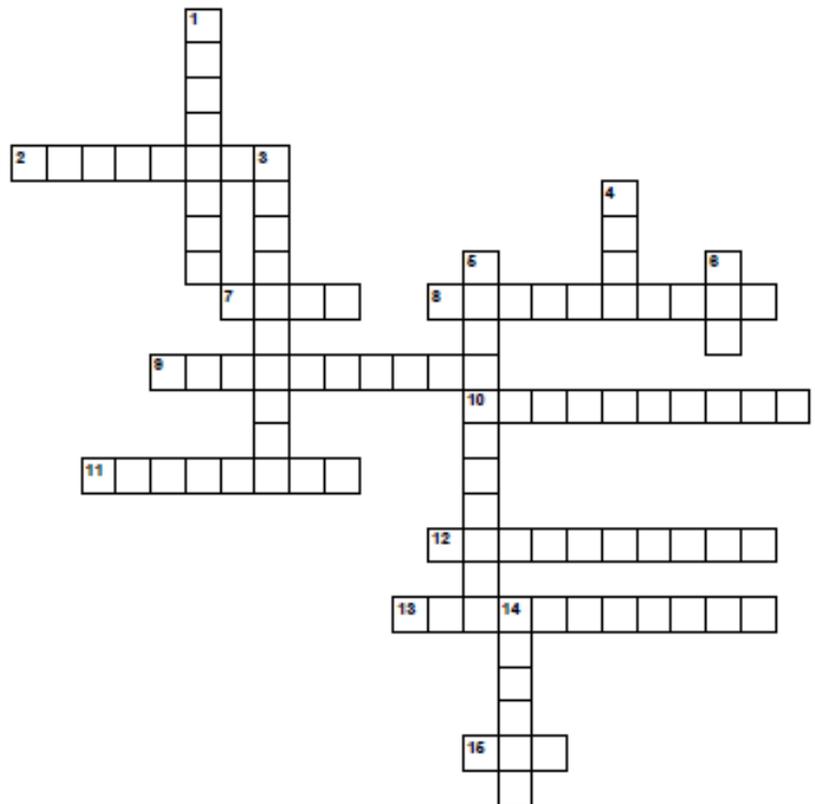
## VA RESEARCH WEEK 2023

### Across

- [2] Scientific inquiry and investigative work
- [7] Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (abv.)
- [8] Scientists' workspace
- [9] Perform a Scientific procedure to determine something
- [10] Creation of something new or improved
- [11] Examination of data
- [12] A work submitted for publication
- [13] Most advanced stage in development or forefront (2 wds.)
- [15] Institutional Review Board (abv.)

### Down

- [1] An \_\_\_\_\_ is a brief summary of any in-depth analysis of a particular subject
- [3] Theory proposed
- [4] Info to analyze
- [5] A \_\_\_\_\_, also called a human subject or subject
- [6] Office of Research and Development (abv.)
- [14] Scientific premise or proposal



Return your completed crossword to Amy Mochel at:

[Amy.Mochel@va.gov](mailto:Amy.Mochel@va.gov)